

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A unit having a stated amount, comprising:  
a fixed income security having a maturity date, a principal amount and an interest rate;  
and  
a forward purchase contract, wherein the fixed income security and the forward purchase contract are separable, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates a holder of the forward purchase contract to purchase a quantity of equity securities from an issuer of the unit for a price equal to the stated amount of the unit no later than a settlement date specified in the forward purchase contract, and wherein the forward purchase contract further obligates the issuer of the unit to pay a purchaser of the unit a forward purchase contract payment at issuance of the unit.
2. The unit of claim 1, wherein the maturity date of the fixed income security is at least two years after the specified settlement date of the forward purchase contract.
3. The unit of claim 1, wherein the fixed income security is issued by the issuer of the unit.
4. The unit of claim 1, wherein the fixed income security is issued by a subsidiary of the issuer of the unit.
5. The unit of claim 1, wherein the fixed income security is issued by a trust, wherein the issuer has an ownership interest in the trust.

6. The unit of claim 5, wherein the fixed income security is a trust-preferred security.
7. The unit of claim 1, wherein the fixed income security is a bond.
8. The unit of claim 1, wherein the issuer of the unit is not the issuer of the equity securities.
9. The unit of claim 1, wherein the fixed income security is issued by a parent of the issuer of the unit.
10. A method, comprising:  
  
issuing a unit having a stated amount, the unit including a fixed income security and a forward purchase contract, wherein the fixed income security and the forward purchase contract are separable;  
  
paying at issuance, by a purchaser of the unit, a principal amount of the fixed income security in exchange for purchase of the unit;  
  
paying at issuance, by an issuer of the unit, a forward purchase contract payment to the purchaser of the unit.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the maturity date of the fixed income security of the unit is at least two years after the specified settlement date of the forward purchase contract.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising paying interest fee payments on the fixed income security and forward purchase contract adjustment payments to the purchaser after issuance of the unit and prior settlement of the forward purchase contract.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising, at settlement, the purchaser of the unit purchasing a quantity of equity securities from the issuer of the unit for a price equal to the stated amount of the unit.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the purchaser of the unit purchasing a quantity of equity securities of the issuer includes the purchaser purchasing a quantity of common stock of the issuer.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising the purchaser reselling the fixed income security.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein reselling the fixed income security includes the purchaser reselling the fixed income security prior to the settlement date.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the purchaser of the unit purchasing a quantity of equity securities of the issuer includes the purchaser paying the issuer with proceeds from resale of the fixed income security.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein the fixed income security is a bond.
19. The method of claim 13, further comprising a subsidiary of the issuer of the unit issuing the fixed income security.
20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the issuer of the unit guarantying payment obligations of the subsidiary.
21. The method of claim 13, further comprising a trust issuing the fixed income security, wherein the issuer of the unit has an ownership interest in the trust.
22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the issuer of the unit guarantying payment obligations of the trust.
23. The method of claim 21, wherein the fixed income security includes a trust-preferred security.
24. The method of claim 21, further comprising the trust purchasing a second fixed income security.
25. The method of claim 21, further comprising the trust purchasing a second fixed income security issued by a subsidiary of the issuer of the unit.

26. The method of claim 13, further comprising a parent of the issuer of the unit issuing the fixed income security.

27. A system, comprising a computing device for reselling a fixed income security on behalf of an investor, wherein the fixed income security was issued as part of a unit further including a forward purchase contract, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates a holder of the forward purchase contract to purchase a quantity of equity securities from an issuer of the unit for a price equal to a stated amount of the unit no later than a settlement date specified in the forward purchase contract, and wherein the forward purchase contract further obligates the issuer of the unit to pay a purchaser of the unit a forward purchase contract payment at issuance of the unit.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the computing device is further for electronically depositing at least a portion of the proceeds from the resale of the fixed income security in an account of the issuer of the unit.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the computing device is further for electronically depositing a remaining portion of the proceeds from the resale of the fixed income security in an account of at least one of the investor and a remarketing agent.

30. A computer readable medium, having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to resell a fixed income security on behalf of an investor, wherein the fixed income security was issued as part of a unit further

including a forward purchase contract, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates a holder of the forward purchase contract to purchase a quantity of equity securities from an issuer of the unit for a price equal to a stated amount of the unit no later than a settlement date specified in the forward purchase contract, and wherein the forward purchase contract further obligates the issuer of the unit to pay a purchaser of the unit a forward purchase contract payment at issuance of the unit.

31. The computer readable medium of claim 30, having further stored thereon instructions which, when executed by the computing device, cause the computing device to electronically deposit at least a portion of the proceeds from the resale of the fixed income security in an account of the issuer of the unit.

32. The computer readable medium of claim 31, having further stored thereon instructions which, when executed by the computing device, cause the computing device to electronically deposit a remaining portion of the proceeds from the resale of the fixed income security in an account of at least one of the investor and a remarketing agent.

33. A method, comprising a pricing a unit for sale to potential investors, wherein the unit includes:

a fixed income security having a maturity date, a principal amount and an interest rate;  
and

a forward purchase contract, wherein the fixed income security and the forward purchase contract are separable, wherein the forward purchase contract obligates a holder of the forward

purchase contract to purchase a quantity of equity securities from an issuer of the unit for a price equal to a stated amount of the unit no later than a settlement date specified in the forward purchase contract, and wherein the forward purchase contract further obligates the issuer of the unit to pay a purchaser of the unit a forward purchase contract payment at issuance of the unit.